

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-11 /071 W

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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1299

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FLORENCE 0082

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

1. DURING TALKS WITH SEVERAL PROFESSORS UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS DURING PAST WEEK, I HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY FACT THAT SEVERAL HAVE HEARD AND GIVEN CREDIBILITY TO FOLLOWING THEORY CONCERNING VIEWS REPUBLICAN PARTY IN THE UNITED STATES AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN GERMANY REGARDING EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN ITALY. ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY, REPUBLICANS WILL DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO PREVENT EARLY ELECTIONS SINCE PROBABLE INCREASE IN COMMUNIST VOTE WOULD BE A NUISANCE AND AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THEM DURING FORTHCOMING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IN THE UNITED STATES. AS FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, THEY ALSO FEAR EARLY ELECTIONS WOULD BRING ADDITIONAL COMMUNIST VOTE THUS CAUSING FEAR IN GERMANY OF LEFTIST REGIME IN ITALY WITH RESULTANT REACTION WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN FORTHCOMING GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. THEREFORE, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE ALSO ATTEMPTING FORESTALL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS PRIOR TO SPRING 1977.

2. POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF THESE PROFESSORS IS SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT, REPUBLICAN AND SOCIALIST. GORDON
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